

IN THE CLAIMS

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A method of testing a compound for biological activity, which method comprises:

- (i) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from the group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2D, NKG2E, and NKG2F at the cell surface;
- (ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of the test compound;
and
- (iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a stimulatory NK cell receptor.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein the ~~inhibitory CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2A receptor~~ NKG2 member is NKG2A.

37. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein the ~~stimulatory CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2C receptor~~ NKG2 member is NKG2C.

38-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) A method of identifying ~~compounds~~ a compound affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, which method comprises:

- (i) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor at the cell surface, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from a group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, and NKG2F;
- (ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of a test compound; and
- (iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising using ~~the~~ an identified compounds compound in a medical diagnostic procedures procedure, wherein the identified ~~compounds are antibodies~~ compound is an anti-CD94 or anti-NKG2A antibody.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising using ~~compounds that have~~ a compound that has been determined to affect the binding of HLA-E to the cells in a medical diagnostic procedures procedure, wherein the ~~compounds are antibodies~~ compound is an anti-CD94 or anti-NKG2A antibody.

50. (Currently amended) A method for producing an identified compound ~~having characteristics of affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors,~~ which method comprises:

- (i) selecting a test compound for screening;
 - (ii) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor at the cell surface, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from a group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, and NKG2F;
 - (iii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of the test compound;
- and

- (iv) ~~determining whether the presence of the~~ identifying any test compound that affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells; and
- (v) producing the identified compound.

~~whereby the test compounds which affect the binding of HLA-E to the cells are the identified compounds.~~

51. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein the ~~CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2B receptor~~ NKG2 member is NKG2B.

52. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein the ~~CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2E receptor~~ NKG2 member is NKG2E.

53. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein the ~~CD94/NKG2 receptor is a CD94/NKG2F receptor~~ NKG2 member is NKG2F.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, further comprising using the identified compounds in therapeutic applications, wherein the identified compounds are antibodies.

55. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.

56. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a stimulatory NK cell receptor.
57. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2A.
58. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2C.
59. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.
60. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an stimulatory NK cell receptor.
61. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2A.
62. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2C.
63. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the test compound is an antibody.

Applicant: Braud et al.
Application No.: 09/555,555

64. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the test compound is an antibody.

65. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the test compound is an antibody.